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26 September 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: DDCI

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Psychological Strategy Board

25X1A 1. On your behalf I attended a meeting at the Psychological Strategy Board on Tuesday, 25 September 1951, at ten o'clock. The purpose of this meeting was to review the agenda which will be presented at a meeting of the Board to be held at two o'clock on Thursday, 27 September 1951. Attached is a copy of the agenda and supporting documents.

Also present were:

25X1A [REDACTED] of the PSB staff; Messrs. Sargeant and McWilliams of the Department of State; Generals Magruder and Balmer and Col. Hopkins of the Department of Defense and JCS.

25X1A 2. ROLE OF THE PSB is the first item on the agenda and most of the discussion revolved around this point; more specifically, to the language at the very bottom of page 1 (PSB D-4, attached), "recommending to the NSC the adoption of such additional policies as may be deemed advisable." The State Department representative, Mr. McWilliams, apparently felt that this language was too broad in view of the fact that the NSC has cognizance of matters with which the PSB is not concerned; whereas, the language as written would permit the PSB to make recommendations to the NSC on any question. [REDACTED] stated that the language was only intended to permit the PSB to make recommendations in respect of matters related to the national psychological effort in either of two ways:

a. Recommendations that NSC develop policy.

25X1A b. Recommendations that NSC adopt specific policy submitted by the PSB.

After considerable discussion, [REDACTED] stated that the language would be revised somewhat along the following lines:

"Recommending to

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"Recommending to the NSC the adoption or development of such additional policies which may directly or indirectly involve psychological operations."

There was also some discussion regarding Paragraph 6 (page 2), and it was decided that this paragraph would be revised to the effect that its ending will be less negative in tone: specifically, through elimination of the words "without any commitment to survey the entire field".

3. Item 2 on the agenda, REPORT OF PROGRESS BY PANELS WORKING UNDER PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD, occasioned no discussion and the progress report by Col. Davis will be repeated at the Board meeting.

25X1A 4. In regard to Item 3, CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN FRANCE AND ITALY, [REDACTED] commented as follows: The Board must first decide whether to seize itself of this problem and the resolution of this question involved the problem of criteria - criteria as to those problems over which the Board should or should not take cognizance. The fact that a problem involved a number of government departments (as opposed to one) was not the sole yardstick. Moreover, the problem under consideration, while it had over-all aspects, pertained essentially to specific operations. General Magruder stated that while the question of overlapping departments was not the sole yardstick, it was, nevertheless, an important one and should be considered. Another criterion, said Gen. Magruder, should be the magnitude of the problem in relation to the national psychological interest; applying these two rules, Gen. Magruder felt that the Board should take cognizance of the subject problem. The representatives present concurred in this view.

The representatives then reviewed the terms of reference for the panel, considering this problem (PSB D-5, attached) and adopted a suggestion by the CIA representative to amend the language at the beginning of Para II "Objectives" to read as follows: "to destroy the favored position held by the Communist Parties in France and Italy by inducing the French and Italian governments and by other means or pressures to:"

25X1A 5. Item 4, BUDGET, F. Y. 1953, AND NEW STAFFING TABLE. [REDACTED] reserved his comment for the meeting of the Board.

25X1A 6. Item 5, RESPONSIBILITY OF DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES WORKING AS MEMBERS OF PANELS UNDER PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD STAFF. [REDACTED] commented on panel procedure as follows:

a. In General, a

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a. In general, a staff member would act as chairman of panels hereafter constituted and would consult the panel members from interested departments rather than calling the panel to sit "en banc" as has been the case heretofore.

b. The covert aspects of determinations will in the future be handled by the PSB staff.

c. Panel members should be of sufficient calibre - individuals who are informed on departmental views but also in a position to exercise some flexibility in approaching a problem. Too often in government poor results have derived from inter-governmental conferences wherein members have been under instructions;

(1) To agree to nothing until departmental consent is obtained;

(2) To voice only the departmental position and to refuse to yield on points departing from that position.

On the contrary, panel members should be in a position to reconcile departmental views in the common interest. In general, panel members should be uninstructed but not uninformed. This does not mean, however, that panel members will not have an opportunity to conciliate their personal views with those of the department which they represent.

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7. If agreeable to DDCI, DADPC proposes to name [REDACTED] as alternate) as the CIA representative on panel C.

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[REDACTED]  
Deputy Assistant Director  
for Policy Coordination

Attachments: 4

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